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I cite the figures of the board because I have read many algebra papers for them in the years 1901–1908, and have a very distinct impression of the points in which pupils have failed. In factoring, for instance, improvement is noticeable in recent years, but there are still many candidates who do not seem to know what factoring means. Many leave the work unfinished, while others reach the form of an indicated product by doing great violence to the terms of the expression.

(*To be continued.*)

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE SECOND ANNUAL DINNER OF THE PHILADELPHIA SECTION, held on Saturday evening, February 13, proved to be a very delightful affair.

Previous to the dinner a reception was held in order that the members of the section might become better acquainted with each other.

There were fifty-nine present and Mr. Henry V. Gummere, of Drexel Institute, the chairman of the section, presided. The guest of honor was Professor David Eugene Smith, of the Teachers College, Columbia University. At the conclusion of the dinner he favored the assembly with a very interesting account of the work of the International Congress of Mathematicians, which met in Rome last summer.

Dr. Cheesman A. Herrick, principal of the new William Penn High School for Girls, made a plea for giving the pupils more practical work in mathematics.

Among other guests of the evening who gave very happy short talks were Mrs. Katherine D. Brown, of Drexel Institute, Mr. Eugene Randolph Smith, of the Polytechnic Preparatory School of Brooklyn, Dr. Fletcher Durell, of the Lawrenceville School, and Mr. George Alvin Snook, of the Central High School.

The evening was pronounced a great success, both mentally and socially.

AT THE AUTUMN MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA SECTION the subject for discussion was "The Original in Algebra." Papers upon the subject were presented by Dr. George B. McClellan Zerr and Mrs. Katharine D. Brown; the discussion was opened by Professor George H. Hallett.

At the spring meeting the subject to be considered is "The Original in Geometry."

MANY MEMBERS OF THE PHILADELPHIA SECTION and others well known in educational circles were pleasantly entertained, February 25, by Mr. Henry V. Gummere and his colleagues of the mathematical staff of the Drexel Institute.

MR. JOHN C. BECHTEL has been elected an instructor in mathematics, at the Central High School, Philadelphia.

THE ROCHESTER SECTION held its sixth regular meeting at the University of Rochester on Saturday, February 13, 1909. The programme consisted of the following papers:

"Report of a Discussion, in Buffalo, of the Present Regents Syllabus," by Miss Ellen D. Baker, Central High School, Buffalo.

"Tests for Convergency of Infinite Series," by C. W. Watkeys, the University of Rochester.

"Symmetry as a Basis of Construction Work in Elementary Geometry," by William Betz, East High School, Rochester.

"The Use of Squared Paper in Elementary Mathematics," by A. S. Gale, the University of Rochester.

As a result of the discussion of Miss Baker's report, the chairman was instructed to appoint a committee to draw up a list of desired changes in the present regents' syllabus, to be submitted, after adoption, to the Board of Regents; and to communicate with the New York and Syracuse sections with the idea of securing their coöperation in the movement.

Mr. Watkeys classified a number of tests for convergence, indicated how they are to be proved and considered their application to the hypergeometric series.

Mr. Betz showed that the idea of symmetry with respect to a line may be developed in a very simple manner, and that the fundamental constructions of geometry may be derived from this one idea so easily that a child in the grades could understand them.

The use of cross-section paper in the grammar schools was advocated by Professor Gale. It may well be used in drawing, in connection with the multiplication table, and especially in mensuration. Simple graphs not only interest children, but they are of such general importance as to merit consideration.

About thirty teachers attended the meeting.